



FALL CLEANUP DAY: If getting rid of excess stuff has been on your to-do list, it's time to let the purging begin. Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews **OCTOBER 10** to collect additional trash and unwanted items as part of fall cleanup day. Construction debris, concrete, household hazardous waste, paint, pool chemicals and leaves are NOT included.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • OCTOBER 2017

HIGHLAND URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

KEEPING HIGHLAND GREEN

Armed with an inventory and a plan, the town is looking to increase the tree canopy along public ways by 50 percent over the next 32 years.

Instead of simply adding another group of silver maples, Parks Superintendent Alex Brown said the inventory report contains a plan to fill in open spaces by adding species that don't necessarily roll off the tongue as easily as elms, oaks and willows.

"The goal here is to add diversification to our tree population," Brown said. "Not only is it better for the environment and the look of our town, expanding our tree species makes it less likely that an insect or disease will severely impact our inventory."

Richard Underkofler, volunteer project manager for the Highland Urban Forest Management Plan, said the plan to add nearly 5,000 trees will increase the tree canopy from 19 percent to 25 percent by 2050.

"Trees help by cleaning the air, storing water and making a community a more attractive place to live," he said. "After hearing from the public, we will be ready to advance the project next year."

PUBLIC HEARING: Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on the plan, which will be the subject of a public hearing at 7 p.m. **OCTOBER 9** at Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road. If unable to attend, provide input at HighlandTrees@comcast.net.

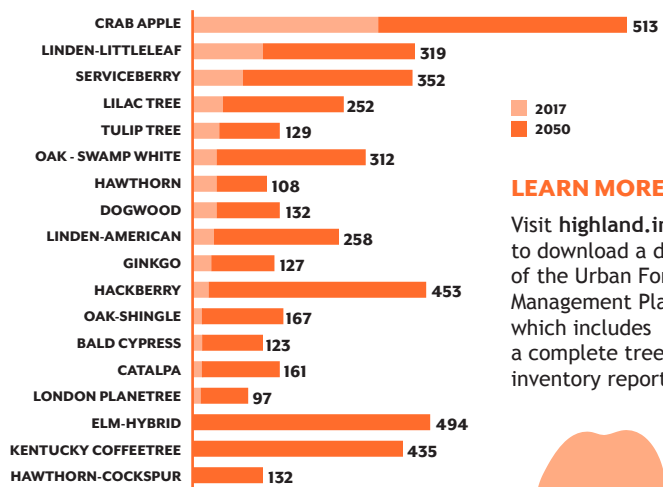
ABOUT THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Highland's Urban Forest Management Plan details how its 10,011 trees will be managed over the next 32 years, beginning in 2018. Here are our goals:

- Create needs analysis for the current tree population
- Establish goals to enhance strengths, realize opportunities
- Update town ordinance for enforcement of tree policies
- Increase diversity by 2050
- Maintain acceptable species list
- Manage tree removals
- Create maintenance program
- Maintain accurate tree inventory
- Properly mulch new plantings
- Incorporate best practices in tree care operations
- Create and maintain tree risk assessment policies
- Increase urban tree canopy from 19 percent to 25 percent
- Increase awareness of the urban forest and engage stakeholders

THE FUTURE OF THE URBAN FOREST

A vision of what Highland's tree population could become by 2050 was created. The customized forestry program details more than 100 diverse species, including a significant increase in the following:



LEARN MORE

Visit highland.in.gov to download a draft of the Urban Forest Management Plan, which includes a complete tree inventory report.

Funding for this project was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lake Michigan Coastal Program and the Town of Highland.

SHOP WITH A FIREFIGHTER

The holidays will be brighter thanks to the Highland Fireman's Association's second annual golf outing. The event raised a record amount of money for the "Shop with a Firefighter" program.

"More children than ever before will get to shop with a firefighter in December," said Fire Chief Bill Timmer, who thanked firefighters Doug Turich, Bryan Rhoten and Matt Pepelea for making the event one for the record books.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov/HighlandFireDepartment for a complete list of sponsors and how you can help.

RECYCLING DRUGS

Turn in unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will be participating with the Drug Enforcement Agency as a drop-off site for medications.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **OCT. 28**

WHERE: HPD, 3315 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call Ken Balon or Ralph Potesta at (219) 838-3184.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HELP KEEP HIGHLAND STREETS CLEAN, SAFE

Public Works needs your help keeping rainwater off the streets and debris out of the storm water system.

The new program is aptly called "Adopt-a-Drain." It consists of a few simple steps and a few minutes of your time.

Operations Director Mark Knesek said clogged storm drains – especially prevalent this time of year with falling leaves – pose one problem. The other is the pet waste, grass clippings laced with chemicals and debris that contaminate relatively clean storm water that ultimately flows into local waterways.

"There's 12 of us and thousands of curbside storm drains throughout town. We just can't keep up," Knesek said. "What we are asking residents to do is claim a drain and police it for

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Fall leaf collection begins Monday, **OCTOBER 9** and will conclude **DECEMBER 1**. The insert in this issue of the Gazebo Express contains dates for leaf collection in your neighborhood.



debris on a regular basis – as often as you mow your lawn or rake your leaves."

The payoff: the undying gratitude of public works staff and the knowledge that you've done your part in helping our local waterways – and the planet. 🍁

HELPING HANDS FOR HARVEY



THANK YOU NORTHWEST INDIANA! Members of the Refugio Bobcats football team offload supplies from region partners Highland and Hessville. The Refugio community extends a gigantic "thank you" to everyone in Northwest Indiana who dug deep to donate food, water, cleaning supplies and clothes to help residents who are rebuilding the small town ravaged by the hurricane. [photo provided]

COMMUNITY REACHES OUT TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

The tiny town of Refugio, Texas is recovering from the devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey, thanks to the giving hearts of local folks.

When Joe Windsor – a Highland resident and VIPS officer – saw images of the destruction, he knew he needed to help. With that, Helping Hands for Harvey was born.

With the help of the community, a donation drive was quickly organized. When donation transportation channels became clogged, volunteers from Helping Hands and a companion group from Hessville – Helpers for Hurricane

Harvey – loaded a truck with supplies. Volunteers then drove the 20 hours to Refugio, a town of 3,000. "We didn't get the flooding: We got the wind," said Jason Herring, football coach for the Refugio Bobcats. "When it was over, our town was devastated."

He credits the groups for giving the community back its spirit. "They not only donated to perfect strangers, volunteers drove the donations all the way here," Herring said.

"Our community has been overwhelmed again – this time by the kindness of others." 🍁

FESTIVAL OF THE TRAIL

This year's Festival of the Trail will light up the downtown through the arts, entertainment, activities and the unveiling of a new mural.

All of the fun will be happening at a new location — on Jewett Street between Kennedy and Fourth Street and within close proximity to our downtown restaurants.

Highland Main Street President Dawn Diamantopoulos is excited about the event and pleased with the decision to move the venue one block east.

"This year, we'll be a little more in the downtown, more centralized than we have been in the past," Diamantopoulos said. "That way, we can leave the municipal lot for parking and Jewett Street, which has a lot going on, for the festival."

An added perk is the proximity of the festival to the Central Fire Station, which will host its annual open house on the same day.

"The events are two blocks apart, which should make enjoying both easy for families," she said. "We are looking at a great event with full slate of entertainers and vendors. We are hoping for even better weather." 🐾

FESTIVAL OF TRAIL

11 AM – 3 PM OCTOBER 14

This year's festival — on Jewett Street between 4th and Kennedy — features a bevy of family-friendly activities, including:

- Girls on the Run Fun Run/Walk
- Artist and vendor booths
- Music and poetry at the murals
- Street poetry
- Produce for sale

FOOD, FUN & FIRE

During the festival, the Central Fire Station will host an open house where kids can play with water, ride fire trucks and watch a side-by-side burn. Food and refreshments will be served.

WHERE: 2901 Highway Avenue

INFO: Call (219) 923-9876.

SUPPORT OPERATION SOS

Operation SOS - Support Our Service members - needs your donations of items and cash to send cheer boxes to service members overseas.

Drop off donations through **OCT. 28** at Town Hall, Lincoln Community Center and Miles Bookstore. A packing party will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **NOV. 19** at Wicker Park Pavilion.

Anyone wishing to contribute cash to help pay for shipping should make a check payable to: Operation SOS, P.O. Box 9308, Highland, IN 46322.

INFO: Call (219) 682-6097, email aguirrecolleen@yahoo.com or like us on Facebook @operationsos46322.

UNLEASH YOUR INNER GIRL

At the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, kindergartners through 12th Graders can unleash their inner G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) through engaging, challenging and fun activities.

Highland girls build courage, confidence and character while earning badges, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors and participating in exciting community service projects.

WANT TO JOIN? Call manager Debbie Fiegle at (219) 902-9687 (text enabled) or email bidecach@sbcglobal.net.

HIGHLAND JOB OPENINGS

Highland Public Works is seeking qualified candidates for the following temporary and full-time job openings:

- Temporary leaf collection
- Utility worker/ Driver C
- Utility technician

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov to download an application and complete job descriptions including hourly pay.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5083.

ARTIST BEGINS WORK ON THIRD JEWETT STREET MURAL

The town's newest mural will be a snapshot of Mother Nature with a nod to the bounty provided by the region's more than 200 species of native bees.

Highland Main Street President Dawn Diamantopoulos said the committee fell in love with the design submitted by Valparaiso resident Melissa Washburn.

"Melissa is a talented artist who created a design that — while very different than the other two murals — will be a wonderful addition to the Jewett

Street paintings," Diamantopoulos said.

Washburn began transforming the cinder block wall at 2825 Jewett earlier this month. The design is based on a love of botanical arts and her most recent work as a Calumet-Artist-in-Residence studying pollinators native to the Indiana Dunes.

"This is a fun project," Washburn said. "I'm working with the two other mural artists to match some of the paint colors they used to bring it all together."



Melissa Washburn holds a BFA in painting and printmaking from Binghamton University (SUNY), an MA in Arts Administration from Indiana University and completed several classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

POP-UP BOUTIQUE

Life Point Church is hosting a LuLaRoe pop-up boutique featuring uber comfortable, affordable and stylish clothing. Eight fashion consultants will be on hand to help shoppers find the perfect little number. Proceeds benefit the Life Point Church scholarship fund.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, **OCT. 7**

WHERE: Life Point Church, 9414 Kennedy

INFO: Call Debra at (219) 924-8936.

PUMPKIN & MUM SALE

The Highland Adult Athletic Booster Club is selling \$25 vouchers good for fall merchandise — such as pumpkins, mums, cornstalks, hay bales, produce, apple cider and more — at Scheeringa Farms on Cline Avenue.

INFO: Please e-mail haabc14@gmail.com to purchase vouchers or message the group on Facebook @HighlandAthleticBoosterClub.

HIGHLAND YOUTH BASKETBALL

Students in kindergarten through Grade 5 will play a 10-game season while learning the fundamentals of basketball. The league will consist of three divisions: Kindergarten and 1st Grade, 2nd and 3rd Grade, 4th and 5th Grade. Games are on Saturdays and practice on weekdays. Teams are determined by a player draft. All players receive a T-shirt.

DEADLINE: Register by Sunday, **OCT. 15**

FEE: \$50 residents/\$55 nonresidents

PRACTICE: Begins week of **NOV. 6**

GAMES: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **DEC. 2 - FEB. 17**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

TEA PARTY IN WONDERLAND

Mothers and their daughters — ages 5-12 — are invited to our first Alice in Wonderland-inspired tea party. Enjoy a catered breakfast, games and crafts. Each mother-daughter duo will receive a 5x7 photo.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturday, **NOV. 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$30 residents/\$35 nonresidents.

\$15/\$17.50 each additional daughter.

Deadline to register is **NOVEMBER 4**.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

BALLROOM DANCING

Get in the groove and move with grace as you learn various dance steps and routines during our eight-week ballroom dancing program. Leather sole shoes recommended.

WHEN: Mondays, **OCT. 16** through **DEC. 4**.

Beginners at 6 p.m. (Cha Cha, Swing, Foxtrot and more) and intermediate at 7 p.m.

(Foxtrot, Rumba, Hustle and more).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

SINGLES: \$48 residents/\$53 nonresidents

COUPLES: \$91 residents/\$96 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

TRICK OR TREAT

Trick-or-treat hours for all Highland goblins and ghouls are from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, **OCTOBER 31**.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Looking for a safe and fun alternative? New Life Christian Reformed Church will host Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot, 3010 Ridge Road.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. **OCT. 31**

INFO: Call (219) 838-0506.

TRI KAPPA BOO BLAST

Join us for a costume-filled afternoon of games, storytelling, food and music for all kids 10 and under.

WHEN: 2 to 5 p.m. **OCT. 21**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TICKETS: Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door or in advance at Lincoln Center or through any Munster-Highland Tri Kappa member.

INFO: Email mhtrikappa@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you have stuff you'd like to sell, but don't want people in your home? Join the community garage sale in conjunction with the Card & Comic Show. Register to sell your items now!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OCT. 14** and **NOV. 18**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$32.10 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$53.50 for 23' x 6' wall space.

Table, chairs, extension cords not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Highland Parks and Recreation is now accepting crafters and vendors for its annual fall show featuring candles, handbags, home décor, skin care, gourmet dips and more.

VENDOR FEES: \$42.80 for 10' X 10' interior space and \$69.55 for 23' x 6' wall space.

Table, chairs, extension cords not provided.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **NOV. 25**.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114.

YOUTH CHORUS AUDITIONS

Northwest Indiana Youth Chorus invites singers aged 6-18 to audition by appointment for our fall season. Our skilled music educators offer instruction in solo vocal techniques and valuable experience in choral singing. NIYC rehearses Monday evenings at Lincoln Center in preparation for two concerts, one in December and one in May. The chorus also participates in local festivals, musical theatre and liturgical activities.

INFO: To schedule an audition, call Dr. Bonita Neff at (219) 629-5448 or bdneff@iun.edu.

CO-REC VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Get ready to spike, block and dig your way to the top of the 10-week league season. Two matches (three games each) are played weekly. Rally scoring is used. All recreational-level volleyball players are welcome. Players must be 18 years of age or older and cannot be participating in high school sports.

DEADLINE: Register by Thursday, **OCT. 26**

FEE: \$300 per team

GAMES: 6-10 p.m. Thursdays, **NOV. 2 - JAN. 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CANVAS PAINT NIGHTS

Our trained instructor will show you step-by-step how to paint your own Halloween-themed canvas. No experience is required.

WHEN: Tuesday, **OCT. 10**

AGES 7-12: 12 x 12 canvas from 5-7 p.m.

FEE: \$15 residents / \$18 nonresidents

AGES 13+: 16 x 20 canvas from 7-9 p.m.

FEE: \$25 residents / \$30 nonresidents

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114